

May 11, 2021 Council Meeting

The regular meeting of the Council of the City of Martinsville, Virginia was held on May 11, 2021 in Council Chambers, Municipal Building, at 7:00 PM with Mayor Kathy Lawson presiding. Other Council Members present included Danny Turner, Jennifer Bowles, Tammy Pearson and Chad Martin. Staff present included City Manager Leon Towarnicki, Assistant City Manager/City Attorney Eric Monday, Clerk of Council Karen Roberts, Assistant Finance Director Mandy McGhee, Finance Director Linda Conover, Community Development Director Mark McCaskill and Police Chief Eddie Cassady.

Mayor Lawson called the meeting to order and advised Council would go into Closed Session beginning at 6:00 PM. In accordance with section 2.1-344 (A) Code of Virginia (1950, and as amended) and upon a motion by Council Member Turner, seconded by Vice Mayor Bowles with the following 4-0 recorded vote: Vice Mayor Bowles, aye; Council Member Martin, aye; Council Member Turner, aye; and Mayor Lawson, aye. Council convened in Closed Session to discuss the following matters: (A) appointments to boards and commissions, as authorized by Subsection 1 and (B) consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members, attorneys or consultant pertaining to actual or probable litigation, or other specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel, as authorized by Subsection 7, specifically reversion. Council Member Pearson joined the closed session at 6:15pm. At the conclusion of Closed Session, each returning member of Council certified that (1) only public business matters exempt from open meeting requirements were discussed in said Closed Session; and (2) only those business matters identified in the motion convening the Closed Session were heard, discussed, or considered during the meeting. A motion was made by Vice Mayor Bowles; seconded by Council Member Turner, with the following 5-0 recorded vote in favor to return to Open Session: Mayor Lawson, aye; Council Member Martin, aye; Vice Mayor Bowles, aye; Council Member Turner, aye; and Council Member Pearson, aye.

Coming out of Closed Session, Vice Mayor Bowles made a motion to reappoint Sheriff Steve Draper to the Dan River Alcohol Safety Action Program Policy Board for a 3-year term ending April 30, 2024. Council Member Martin seconded the motion with all Council Members voting in favor. No other action was taken out of Closed Session.

Following the Pledge to the American Flag and invocation by Council Member Pearson, Mayor Lawson welcomed everyone to the meeting. Lawson explained that the meeting would follow COVID guidelines, allowing limited attendance and recognizing social distancing recommendations.

Approve minutes from the April 27, 2021 Council Meetings – Vice Mayor Bowles made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Council Member Pearson seconded the motion with all Council Members voting in favor.

Recognize a student from Martinsville Middle School's 7<sup>th</sup> grade class as Virginia Municipal League's Region 2 winner of the 2021 "If I Were Mayor" essay contest – City Manager Towarnicki explained the "If I Were Mayor" essay contest that local 7<sup>th</sup> graders participate in. VML Chief of

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Staff Sue Mellen presented the award and a prize check to contest winner and local 7<sup>th</sup> grader Marjorie Davis, daughter of Cassie and Joseph Davis. Mayor Lawson invited Marjorie to sit in the Mayor's chair and asked her to read her essay.

Hear an update on Martinsville Mustangs Baseball – Greg Suire, managing the Martinsville Mustangs, updated Council on the upcoming Mustang season. The Mustangs look forward to providing people an opportunity to enjoy the games with family and friends in a safe environment. The Mustangs are only 1 of 2 teams who played last year because of the pandemic. They have partnered with the American Legion program this year. May 27 will be the first game; he is expecting they'll play around 34 to 35 games this season including a game on Memorial Day. Suire joked that in light of gas and lumber prices, the tickets to the Mustang's games are still very affordable. This year, a Patrick Henry Community College coach will serve as the head coach. There will be a number of Thursday night and Saturday games along with other fun theme nights. There are no mask regulations outside but fans are encouraged to social distance. Players are encouraged to be vaccinated but are not required. Regular screening of players and coaches will continue. At present, there is a 1,000-fan attendance limit because of COVID restrictions.

Consider approval of consent agenda - Vice Mayor Bowles made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented; Council Member Martin seconded the motion. Council Member Turner asked for clarification on what School ESSER funds are. Finance Director Conover explained that this was federally gifted CARES money. All Council Members voting in favor.

BUDGET ADDITIONS FOR 05/11/21				
ORG	OBJECT	DESCRIPTION	DEBIT	CREDIT
<b>BUDGET ADDITIONS</b>				
<b>FY2021</b>				
<b>School ESSER II Funds</b>				
19102926	499995	Categorical Federal-ESSER II Response Relief Supplement		3,919,118
91001100	561151	Instr Aides S&W	21,120	
91001100	566013	Instr Materials & Supplies	26,396	
91001100	562100	Social Security	57,961	
91001100	561120	Instr S&W	736,560	
92001100	566013	Instr Materials & Supplies	12,000	
92001100	562100	Social Security	12,118	
92001100	561151	Instr Aides S&W	63,360	
92001100	561120	Instr S&W	95,040	
97100110	566013	Instr Materials & Supplies	961	
97100110	566056	Non-Capital Equip	19,743	
98000222	563000	Purchased Services	1,000	
98000222	565503	Travel	1,000	
98000222	566056	Non-Capital Equip	4,000	
98000222	562100	Social Security	30,904	
98000222	561190	Service S&W	58,080	
98000325	562100	Social Security	4,913	
98000325	561170	Operative S&W	64,216	
98000340	568100	Capital Outlay Replacement	197,274	
98000420	568100	Capital Outlay Replacement	888,315	
98000420	563000	Purchased Services	991,214	
98000810	566040	Tech Software & Online Content	57,963	
98000810	568210	Tech Hardware Additions	456,375	
98000820	562100	Social Security	2,644	
98000820	561300	Part-time S&W	34,560	
98003252	562100	Social Security	831	
98003252	561170	Operative S&W	10,859	
98003352	562100	Social Security	1,246	
98003352	561190	Service S&W	16,289	
98102131	563000	Purchased Services	52,176	
		School ESSER/CARES Act appropriation		
<b>Total School ESSER II Fund:</b>			<b>3,919,118</b>	<b>3,919,118</b>
<b>School Operating Fund</b>				
18103909	490011	Recovered Costs - E-Rate		156,000
80008200	564000	Instr Support Tech - Internal Services	156,000	
18101918	404074	State Grant - School Security Grant		197,019
80004600	563000	Div-Wide Security - Purchased Services	9,096	
80004600	566056	Div-Wide Security - Non-Capital Equipment	187,923	
<b>Total School Operating Fund:</b>			<b>353,019</b>	<b>353,019</b>

Hear a presentation of the proposed FY22 City Budget – City Manager Towarnicki presented Council with a Budget PowerPoint to summarize the proposed 2022 budget. Towarnicki has received some information related to the next round of CARES funding and hopes to have more details soon. He touched on some of the positive highlights from FY2021 even with the past year pandemic restrictions as well as budget objectives and challenges. Towarnicki stressed that the City was fiscally sound. He thanked the City staff, especially the Finance Department for their assistance in putting this budget together. There are three budget work sessions scheduled on May 12, May 13 and May 18 to discuss budget specifics. Towarnicki asked Council to set a public hearing for May 25, 2021. Council Member Turner suggested that the next round of CARES funding be used to benefit local small businesses. Mayor Lawson confirmed that the budget could be amended after approval. Towarnicki is waiting on further details on how the

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money can be used. Vice Mayor Bowles made a motion to set the public hearing for May 25, Turner seconded the motion with all Council Members voting in favor.

Business from the Floor – No business from the floor

Comments by City Council – Council Member Turner attended a lunch in honor of former Mayor L.D. Oakes and his wife who will be moving out of the area to live closer to their children in Ohio. Council Member Pearson said there was some positive movement Uptown with new businesses including Ground Floor coffee shop. Congratulations to Sparkle Me Pretty which is under new ownership. #movetomartinsville is happening. Council Member Bowles thanked everyone who attended her grandfather's 89<sup>th</sup> birthday parade. Bowles acknowledged a fuel shortage and asked residents to be reasonable when getting gas and be mindful of elderly and workers who drive or transport for a living. Please do not turn this into a toilet paper fiasco. Mayor Lawson expressed appreciation to staff and the City Manager for the budget presentation. Lawson reminded Council that their top three essays are due to the Clerk of Council and to please keep in mind what the theme was; 90% of the essays did not follow that. Lawson welcomed new uptown businesses and reminded residents of the Memorial Day ceremony at Roselawn Cemetery.

Comments by the City Manager – none

City Attorney Monday explained when the governor declares a state of emergency order, it automatically activates the anti-price gauging state law. Localities are entitled to investigate and prosecute those suspected of price gauging. Residents who see price gauging at any local gas stations are encouraged to contact him.

There being no further business, Vice Mayor Bowles made a motion to adjourn the meeting; the motion was seconded by Council Member Turner with all Council Members voting in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:25pm.

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Karen Roberts  
Clerk of Council

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Kathy Lawson  
Mayor